



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,304	07/30/2003	Daniel R. Morris	037925.0002	8729
7590 Thomas F. Bergert Williams Mullen Suite 700 8270 Greensboro Drive McLean, VA 22102			EXAMINER MEYERS, MATTHEW S	
			ART UNIT 3629	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/629,304	Applicant(s) MORRIS, DANIEL R.	
	Examiner Matthew S. Meyers	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's communication on 7/30/2003, wherein claims 1-30 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant sets out to claim a database of lien records, the identifies a "property-related lien". However, applicant's step of calculating at least one trigger date associated with said lien is indefinite as Examiner is unable to determine whether applicant is referring to a property related lien or any other type of lien.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 1-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Feinberg et al. (Pub. No.: US 2002/0107703) (Hereinafter referred to as Feinberg).

6. With respect to **Claims 1**:

Feinberg discloses a method for managing lien releases (Feinberg [0018], "Although not specifically described herein, the invention is also applicable to...personal property liens...and all other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset."), comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of trigger documents (Feinberg [0012], "The server validates the data by comparing it to a set of guidelines, which have previously been stored on the database.");

providing access to at least one database of lien records (Feinberg, [abs], "A method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.");

identifying a property-related lien (Feinberg, [abs], "A method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.");

calculating at least one trigger date associated with said lien (Feinberg, [0015], "The recording agency supplies a recording number and recording date, which are documented on the document.");

determining whether said lien has been satisfied (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid.");

determining whether said lien has been released (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid."); and

upon said lien being satisfied, but not being released by said trigger date, issuing at least one trigger document (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid.").

7. With respect to **Claim 2**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said step of identifying a lien includes identifying lien information including at least one of a lien holder, an obligor, a loan amount, a payee identifier and a lien jurisdiction (Feinberg [0011], "In the preferred embodiment for medical lien filing, the client is a medical service provider such as a physician, hospital, or therapist.").

8. With respect to **Claim 3**:

Feinberg discloses wherein the step of establishing said database includes establishing demand letters to lien holders and legal forms adapted according to a jurisdiction associated with said identified lien (Feinberg [0012], "The guidelines set forth the content and format of the information required to properly file a lien in each given jurisdiction. The guidelines are compiled from statutes, regulations, and local practice for each locale.").

9. With respect to **Claim 4**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said determining steps include the step of querying jurisdictional records (Feinberg [0012], "The guidelines set forth the content and format of the information required to properly file a lien in each given jurisdiction. The guidelines are compiled from statutes, regulations, and local practice for each locale.").

10. With respect to **Claim 5**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said trigger date is calculated by a lien payoff disbursement date (Feinberg [0002], "The process ensures that the patient or available insurance coverage pay the service or equipment provider its share of the reimbursement, once the insurance company settles or disburses finds related to the liability claim which caused the patient's injuries." and [0007], "The present invention provides a method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.").

11. With respect to **Claim 6**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said trigger date is calculated by a settlement date (Feinberg [0002], "The process ensures that the patient or available insurance coverage pay the service or equipment provider its share of the reimbursement, once the insurance company settles or disburses finds related to the liability claim which caused the patient's injuries." and [0007], "The present invention provides a method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments,

and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.”).

12. With respect to **Claim 7**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said trigger date is calculated by an overdue release date (Feinberg [0002], “The process ensures that the patient or available insurance coverage pay the service or equipment provider its share of the reimbursement, once the insurance company settles or disburses finds related to the liability claim which caused the patient's injuries.” and [0007], “The present invention provides a method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.”).

13. With respect to **Claim 8**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said trigger date is calculated by determining statutory requirements for lien releases based on a jurisdiction associated with said identified lien (Feinberg [0012], “The guidelines set forth the content and format of the information required to properly file a lien in each given jurisdiction. The guidelines are compiled from statutes, regulations, and local practice for each locale.”).

14. With respect to **Claim 9**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said statutory requirements are stored in a database and are accessible via network connection (Feinberg, [abs], “Certain lien information is provided by a lien holder to a centralized database via the Internet.”).

15. With respect to **Claim 10**:

Feinberg discloses updating said statutory requirement database (Feinberg [0004], "Once the lien documents are properly prepared and subsequently accepted by the government...") (Examiner notes that the government agency would not accept the lien documents unless they are properly filed. Therefore, the statutory requirement database would need to be updated.).

16. With respect to **Claim 11**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said at least one trigger document is an e-mail (Feinberg [0012], "The data is transmitted using email communication protocols.").

17. With respect to **Claim 12**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said at least one trigger document is a notice to at least one of a title company or lender (Feinberg [0015], "Similarly, the lien holder is notified that the claim has been perfected.").

18. With respect to **Claim 13**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said database further includes at least one form and at least one report, said form and said report being customizable based on said identified lien (Feinberg [0017], "The present invention can be applied to other types of liens").

19. With respect to **Claim 14**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said lien is identified by receiving lien transaction information via a remote device over a network (Feinberg [0006], "It is a further object of this invention to provide a lien management system which operates on a computer

network to accommodate multiple clients, recording agencies, and changing recording guidelines.”).

20. With respect to **Claim 15**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said step of providing access includes providing access to a plurality of lien record databases corresponding to a respective plurality of lien record-keeping jurisdictions (Feinberg [0006], “It is a further object of this invention to provide a lien management system which operates on a computer network to accommodate multiple clients, recording agencies, and changing recording guidelines.”).

21. With respect to **Claim 16**:

Feinberg discloses a system for managing lien releases (Feinberg [0018], “Although not specifically described herein, the invention is also applicable to...personal property liens...and all other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.”), comprising:

a storage component having at least one trigger document stored therein (Feinberg [0012], “The server validates the data by comparing it to a set of guidelines, which have previously been stored on the database.”);

a lien management component having means for providing a user interface, receiving at least one lien release tracking request, identifying a lien corresponding to said request, and calculating at least one trigger date associated with said identified lien (Feinberg, [abs], “A method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments,

and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset."); and

a lien status identification component having means for determining whether said lien has been satisfied and determining whether said lien has been released, whereby upon said lien being satisfied, but not being released by said calculated trigger date, said lien management component issues at least one trigger document from said storage component (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid.").

22. With respect to **Claim 17**:

Feinberg discloses wherein issuing said at least one trigger document includes displaying said trigger document in electronic form via said interface (Feinberg [0012], "The data is transmitted using email communication protocols.").

23. With respect to **Claim 18**:

Feinberg discloses wherein issuing said at least one trigger document includes printing said trigger document (Feinberg [0007], "For agencies that do not accept electronic filing, a paper copy of the legal instrument printed.").

24. With respect to **Claim 19**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said identified lien includes lien information including at least one of a lien holder, an obligor, a loan amount, a payee identifier and a lien jurisdiction (Feinberg [0011], "In the preferred embodiment for medical lien filing, the client is a medical service provider such as a physician, hospital, or therapist.").

25. With respect to **Claim 20**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said storage component includes at least one demand letter intended for a lien holder and at least one legal form adapted according to a jurisdiction associated with said identified lien (Feinberg [0012], "The guidelines set forth the content and format of the information required to properly file a lien in each given jurisdiction. The guidelines are compiled from statutes, regulations, and local practice for each locale.").

26. With respect to **Claim 21**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said lien management component provides access to electronic records for at least one lien record-keeping jurisdiction (Feinberg [0012], "The guidelines set forth the content and format of the information required to properly file a lien in each given jurisdiction. The guidelines are compiled from statutes, regulations, and local practice for each locale.").

27. With respect to **Claim 22**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said trigger date is calculated by determining statutory requirements for lien releases based on said identified jurisdiction (Feinberg [0002], "The process ensures that the patient or available insurance coverage pay the service or equipment provider its share of the reimbursement, once the insurance company settles or disburses funds related to the liability claim which caused the patient's injuries." and [0007], "The present invention provides a method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and

other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.”).

28. With respect to **Claim 23**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said statutory requirements are stored in a database and are accessible via network connection (Feinberg, [abs], “Certain lien information is provided by a lien holder to a centralized database via the Internet.”).

29. With respect to **Claim 24**:

Feinberg discloses further including means for updating said statutory requirement database (Feinberg [0004], “Once the lien documents are properly prepared and subsequently accepted by the government...”) (Examiner notes that the government agency would not accept the lien documents unless they are properly filed. Therefore, the statutory requirement database would need to be updated.).

30. With respect to **Claim 25**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said at least one trigger document is an e-mail (Feinberg [0012], “The data is transmitted using email communication protocols.”).

31. With respect to **Claim 26**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said at least one trigger document is a notice to at least one of a title company or lender (Feinberg [0015], “Similarly, the lien holder is notified that the claim has been perfected.”).

32. With respect to **Claim 27**:

Feinberg discloses wherein said storage component further includes at least one form and at least one report, said form and said report being customizable based on

said identified lien (Feinberg [0017], "The present invention can be applied to other types of liens").

33. With respect to **Claim 28:**

Feinberg discloses wherein said lien release tracking request includes lien transaction information received via a remote device over a network (Feinberg [0006], "It is a further object of this invention to provide a lien management system which operates on a computer network to accommodate multiple clients, recording agencies, and changing recording guidelines.").

34. With respect to **Claim 29:**

Feinberg discloses wherein access is provided to a plurality of lien record databases corresponding to a respective plurality of lien record-keeping jurisdictions (Feinberg [0006], "It is a further object of this invention to provide a lien management system which operates on a computer network to accommodate multiple clients, recording agencies, and changing recording guidelines.").

35. With respect to **Claim 30:**

Feinberg discloses an article of manufacture comprising a computer instruction carrier, readable by a computer, tangibly embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for managing lien releases (Feinberg [0018], "Although not specifically described herein, the invention is also applicable to...personal property liens...and all other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset."), said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of trigger documents (Feinberg [0012], "The server validates the data by comparing it to a set of guidelines, which have previously been stored on the database.");

providing access to at least one database of lien records (Feinberg, [abs], "A method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.");

identifying a property-related lien (Feinberg, [abs], "A method and system for automating the preparation, recordation, tracking and filing of liens, assignments, and other legal documents relating to securing payment of a debt or other obligation or transfer of ownership of an asset.");

calculating at least one trigger date associated with said lien (Feinberg, [0015], "The recording agency supplies a recording number and recording date, which are documented on the document.");

determining whether said lien has been satisfied (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid.");

determining whether said lien has been released (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid."); and

Art Unit: 3629


upon said lien being satisfied, but not being released by said trigger date, issuing at least one trigger document (Feinberg [0016], "Once the lien holder has been paid, a release or satisfaction is filed to indicate the debt has been paid.").

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew S. Meyers whose telephone number is (571)272-7943. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

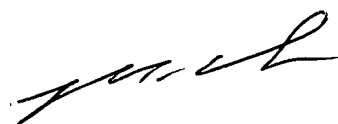
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571)272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MSM
4/23/07



4/23/07



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600